

Wisdom and Guidance Committee

MINUTES - January 24, 2024



Welcome

The Wisdom and Guidance Committee meeting started with an Opening Prayer by Josephine Small, followed by E. Tisdale reciting the Land Acknowledgement.

The Committee reviewed the norms, protocols, goals, and purpose of re-establishing the Wisdom and Guidance Committee.

Elders were unable to attend due to prior commitments.



Elder Teaching-

A teaching was provided by Josephine Small on walking in reconciliation, and the importance of laughter, especially alongside each other.



Introduction and Updates

Representatives from the Ponoka schools, and Wolf Creek senior administration, were in attendance, along with parents and stakeholders of the Wolf Creek community.

**Due to the number of attendees sharing their stories, laughter, thoughts, wisdom, and knowledge the discussion questions were kept short due to time*

The Superintendents, Director of Indigenous Education and Reconciliation, Ponoka School Principals, and Student Success Coaches shared updates with the Committee.

- [Updates from Wolf Creek Public Schools](#)



Discussion Question

Wolf Creek Public Schools has put into place a number of supports to increase student success - this includes the Indigenous Literacy Program at Ponoka Elementary School, and the Indigenous Graduation Coach Program at Ponoka Secondary Campus and The BRICK Learning Centre. The following questions were documented and presented to the Committee for discussion and feedback:

From your perspective,

Have you noticed these supports making a difference?

How might Wolf Creek Public Schools best promote, and advocate for members of our local Indigenous community to apply for employment positions in the school division?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>WCPS Cultural Support Assistant Dion and drumming make a difference. Stronger connections; teachings are being brought back into the home which helps to get past trauma; and making students feel a place of belonging</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Neighbouring school divisions and WCPS plan to meet</i> • <i>Come together like the 4 bands came together to form MESC</i> • <i>Share resources with one another (neighbouring school divisions & WCPS)</i> |
|--|--|

-
- *Stronger more powerful conversations are happening*
 - *Success Coaches working on connections with students as well as connections between teachers and students*
 - *Having the support makes a World of Difference - gives students hope*
 - *More and more kids are connecting in the Success Coach room*
 - *Students won't learn from someone they dislike and they all love Success Coaches*
 - *Getting those kids to that safe space, where they open up, and find belonging*
 - *A high number of students being nominated for Honouring Spirit Award*
 - *More and more students are coming out and proud to be Indigenous*
 - *More respect around the schools which gives hope to our future*
 - *Music is the Universal language*
 - *Headhunt - Indigenous organizations don't do it for cultural education*
 - *Diversity in other Indigenous cultures*
 - *Find employment within WCPS to be tax-free (partner with neighbouring school divisions to pay WCPS employees)*
 - *Provincial gov't to hire Indigenous = problems*
 - *Make it more appealing for Indigenous workers*
 - *Try to make connection with Maskwacis Cultural College*
 - *Social Worker - required to be registered with an Association (i.e. ACSW) which gives protection*
 - *Lots of mistrust with white organizations*
 - *Need to come at things differently*
 - *Remove barriers*
 - *It will be more powerful for students to learn from someone within their own culture*
 - *WCPS needs to get Indigenous practicum students*
 - *It can be scary to work off of the Reservation*
 - *"Walk into the room like your ancestors sent you"*



Next Meeting Date

The next Wisdom and Guidance Committee meeting is set for March 20, 2024 at the Division Office in Ponoka.